Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard for me to believe that the 2012 – 2013 school year is coming to a close, and your eighth grade child has just completed all five modules from Guidance 101 - Lessons for 8th Grade Students which have included:

1. Introduction to *Guidance 101* and Overview of Guidance News That You Can Use

*2. CareerZone Assess Yourself*

*3. CareerZone - Explore Job Families*

4. Course Selection for 2013 - 2014

*5. College Day 2013*

It has been my hope that your child would leave Armstrong with a better understanding of him/herself and what careers he/she would like to explore at the high school through his/her elective courses.

As your child prepares to move up to the high school, you will play an important role in helping him/her further develop his/her career education plans. Mr. Jay Cannon, Retired ACRN State Director from the Bureau of Career and Technical Education has created two documents that are listed on the reverse side of this letter. I hope you find them useful. They include: *Teacher/Parent “Coaching Skills” in Helping Students to Manage Career Information* and *Long Term Benefits in Helping Students With Career Education and Planning*.

You are also welcome to revisit the *Guidance News That You Can Use webpage* <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/home> and in particular the Page entitled *Guidance 101* <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Guidance+101> for any resources that you may find useful.

Finally, I want to wish you and your child a successful four years in high school and a wonderful and safe summer. If I can be of further help to you in the future, please let me know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karla M. Jones, M.Ed.

Eighth Grade School Counselor



**Please Turn Over**

***Teacher/Parent “Coaching Skills” in Helping Students to Manage Career Information***

Help Students To:

1. Not be afraid to dream BIG DREAMS about their future career possibilities....

FOCUS and build on strong areas.

2. Know themselves and be proud of their special uniqueness and contributions….

FOCUS on self knowledge, who they are, what they have to offer, likes and

dislikes, strengths and weaknesses.

3. Know what their options are, which career possibilities appeal to them the

most, and how to qualify for suitable learning and work opportunities....

FOCUS on the journey and not the destination.

4. Keep a positive attitude even when they face negative situations....

FOCUS on helping students see the best in themselves, others and in all

situations.

5. Know how to Network.... FOCUS on helping students their allies and seek out adult "coaching" in support of their career dreams. Remind students not to procrastinate in asking for help and support.

6. Know how to face and deal with CHANGE.... It is constant and may bring with it new opportunities. FOCUS on adaptability - the skill of making the best of every change and situation.

7. Know that learning is life-long. FOCUS on continuing adult education, re-training, and cross-training.

*Long Term Benefits in Helping Students With Career Education and Planning*

A. Educational Outcomes

• Improved education achievement

• Improved preparation and participation in postsecondary education

• Better articulation among levels of education and between education and work

• Higher graduation and retention rates

B. Social Benefits

• Benefits to family, peers, and community

• Higher levels of worker satisfaction and career retention

• Shorter path to primary labor market for young workers

• Lower incidence of work-related stress and depression

• Reduced likelihood of work-related violence

C. Economic Consequences

• Higher incomes and increased tax revenues

• Lower rates and shorter periods of unemployment

• Lower cost of worker turnover

• Lower health care costs

• Lower incarceration and criminal justice costs

• Increased worker productivity

Jay D. Cannon

Bureau of Career and Technical Education 8/18/04